

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1421

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: 31ST UNGA, UNDRO, EGEN, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA SECOND COMMITTEE: DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE
"OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR"
(AGENDA ITEM 64)

REF: STATE 292979

1. SUBJECT RESOLUTION (A/C.2/31/L.55) WAS ADOPTED BY
CONSENSUS ON DECEMBER 3. DURING HIS INTRODUCTION OF THE
RESOLUTION, THE SWEDISH DELEGATE AMENDED THE DRAFT IN
ORDER TO DELETE "FIFTY PERCENT" AND ADD "SUBSTANTIAL
PORTION", AND PROCEEDED TO EXPLAIN THAT "SUBSTANTIAL
PORTION" WAS INTERPRETED BY THE CO-SPONSORS TO MEAN IN
THE ORDER OF MAGNITUDE OF FIFTY PERCENT. SEE REFTEL.
(THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED WITH THIRTY-TWO CO-SPONSORS.)

2. A STATEMENT RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
WAS MADE BY THE UN CONTROLLER (DEBATIN), WHO WISHED TO
POINT OUT THAT WITH ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION THE UN
WOULD BE FACED WITH TWO ALTERNATIVES: A) ACCOMMODATE
INCREASED UNDRO RESOURCE NEEDS WITHIN THE TARGET FIGURE
ESTABLISHED FOR THE BUDGET AS A WHOLE; OR B) CONSIDER
UNDRO A SPECIAL CASE. IF REQUIRED TO PURSUE THE FORMER
IT WOULD NECESSARILY REDUCE POSSIBILITIES FOR BUDGETARY
GROWTH IN OTHER SECTIONS. (SEE A/C.2/31/L.68 CIRCULATED
DECEMBER 3.) FRANCE, FRG, AND JAPAN EXPRESSED SUPPORT
FOR THE CONTROLLER'S CONCERNS AND THEIR PREFERENCE FOR
REFERRAL OF THIS MATTER TO THE FIFTH COMMITTEE, TO
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EXAMINE THE 1978-79 PLAN IDENTIFIED IN THIS RESOLUTION WITH

THE MEDIUM TERM PLAN. USSR, POLAND, BYELORUSSIA ALSO
EXPRESSED DOUBTS, BUT NONE BROKE THE CONSENSUS.

3. OTHER DELEGATIONS SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF UNDRO AND
THE RESOLUTION. THE UK, SPEAKING ESSENTIALLY ON
BEHALF OF THE CO-SPONSORS, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SUBJECT
WAS ONE WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE FIFTH
COMMITTEE BEFORE ANY FINAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON
THE FUTURE FINANCING OF UNDRO. THE SPONSORS CONSIDERED,
HOWEVER, THAT THE POINTS RAISED IN THE RESOLUTION WERE
WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE, AND THE
RESOLUTION OUGHT TO BE APPROVED NOW SO THE MATTER COULD
BE CONSIDERED IN DETAIL BY THE CPC, ACABQ AND FIFTH
COMMITTEE FOR FINAL DECISION AT THE 32ND UNGA.
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